September 17, 2014

via Electronic Delivery

J. Patrick Sandy
President / CEO
Chuck Dietzen, MD
Medical Director

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell Secretary of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20201

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Dear Secretary Burwell:

On behalf of Easter Seals Crossroads in Indiana, I would like to take this opportunity to express our support for Indiana's waiver request for the Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0. This plan will provide an opportunity for as many as 350,000 uninsured Hoosiers to receive health care coverage.

Easter Seals Crossroads has been helping individuals with disabilities and special needs, and their families, live better lives for over 75 years. Whether helping someone improve physical mobility, return to work or simply gain greater independence for everyday living, we offer a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals.

Having health care coverage is very important for the well-being of our consumers and their families. They need to be able to access preventive and primary care health care services. Plus having health care coverage gives them the peace of mind of knowing that health care is available to them and their families should a serious health care issue arise.

We are also interested in working with the State on the newly proposed HIP Link. This innovative program will allow HIP 2.0 eligible individuals the choice of either enrolling in HIP 2.0 or to receive a defined contribution from the State which they can use to pay for employer-sponsored premiums and other cost sharing. It would also provide a counselor to assist an individual with deciding which option would be best suited to their individual needs and situation. We like that this assistance would also be available for an entire family.

Thank you for your consideration of Indiana's waiver submission. We are hopeful to have a coverage expansion for Hoosiers in early 2015.

Sincerely.

 Patrick Sandy President/CEO

Cc:

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator of CMS The Honorable Mike Pence, Governor of Indiana







